



DARLINGTON
Borough Council

Agreed Syllabus Conference Agenda

4.00 pm

Monday, 6 September 2021

The Council Chamber, Town Hall, Darlington. DL1 5QT

Members of the Public are welcome to attend this Meeting.

1. Attendance at Meeting
2. Appointment of Chair for the purpose of this meeting
3. Declarations of Interest
4. To approve the Minutes of the Meeting of Agreed Syllabus Conference held on 26 April 2021 (Pages 3 - 4)
5. Review of Locally Agreed Syllabus for Religious Education 2015 - Options – Report of the Group Director of People (Pages 5 - 12)
6. Supplementary Items(s) (if any) which in the opinion of the Chair of this Committee are of an urgent nature and can be discussed at this meeting
7. Questions



Luke Swinhoe
Assistant Director Law and Governance

Thursday, 26 August 2021

**Town Hall,
Darlington.**

Membership

Jenny Uzzell, Group A Paganism
Martin Stand, Group B Church of England
Kelsang Dragden, Group A Buddhism
Dr MA Quader, Group A The Islamic Society of Darlington
Helen Ellis, Group A The Roman Catholic Church
M Calderon, Group A The Religious Society of Friends
Morvyn Sanderson, Group A The Methodist Church
Rev Thompson, Group A Darlington Baptist Church
B Singh, Group A Sikhism
Bess Robertson, Group A Darlington Hebrew Congregation (Judaism)
Meg Thomson, Group A Darlington United Reformed Church
Dr Kumari, Group A Hinduism
Rev Paul Baker, Group B Church of England
Beth Miller, Group B Church of England
Councillor C L B Hughes
Councillor Clarke
Councillor Crudass
Councillor Curry
Fiona Rankin, Group C The National Association of School Teacher/Union of Women Teachers (NASUWT)
Stuart Rawle, Group C National Association of Head Teachers (NAHT)

If you need this information in a different language or format or you have any other queries on this agenda please contact Allison Hill, Democratic Officer, Resources Group, during normal office hours 8.30 a.m. to 4.45 p.m. Mondays to Thursdays and 8.30 a.m. to 4.15 p.m. Fridays email: Allison.hill@darlington.gov.uk or Tel 01325 405997

**AGREED SYLLABUS CONFERENCE
VIA MICROSOFT TEAMS
MONDAY, 26 APRIL 2021**

PRESENT –

Jenny Uzzell (Group A Paganism), Martin Stand (Group B Church of England), Helen Ellis (Group A The Roman Catholic Church), Morvyn Sanderson (Group A The Methodist Church), Bess Robertson (Group A Darlington Hebrew Congregation (Judaism)), Dr Kumari (Group A Hinduism), Rev Paul Baker (Group B Church of England), Councillor C L B Hughes, Councillor Clarke, Councillor Curry, Fiona Rankin (Group C The National Association of School Teacher/Union of Women Teachers (NASUWT)) and Stuart Rawle (Group C National Association of Head Teachers (NAHT))

Co-opted Members – Jan Mole (Co-opted Member of SACRE)

Officers – Allison Hill (Democratic Officer) and Anne Davison (SEND and Inclusion Advisor) (SENCO Partnership Link Officer)

APOLOGIES – Kelsang Dragden (Group A Buddhism), Rev Thompson (Group A Darlington Baptist Church), Meg Thomson (Group A Darlington United Reformed Church), Councillor Heslop and M Fryer (Co-opted Member of SACRE)

1 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest reported at this meeting.

2 APPOINTMENT OF CHAIR

IT WAS AGREED – That Jenny Uzzell be appointed Chair for the purpose of the Agreed Syllabus Conference.

3 REVIEW OF THE LOCALLY AGREED SYLLABUS - CONSULTATION WITH SCHOOLS AND CONSULATION PROCESS

The Director of Children and Adult Services submitted a report (previously circulated) to give consideration to the review of the Locally Agreed Syllabus for Religious Education in Darlington.

The Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education has a duty to review their Locally Agreed Syllabus every 5 years, and this was now a year overdue as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic.

It was agreed at the meeting of the Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education held on 8 February 2021 to commence the review process and convene an Agreed Syllabus Conference (ASC) to progress and it was noted that any update to the Darlington syllabus (if agreed) would be unlikely to be released to schools after January 2022 at the earliest.

As part of the recommended consultation process with all schools, Anne Davison, SEND and Inclusion Advisor advised the ASC that a survey had been circulated to all schools on 18 May, 2021 to be completed on Survey Monkey to gather school views, especially those of Head Teachers, subject governors and RE Teachers. The results of the questionnaires (also previously circulated) were reviewed at the meeting and it was noted that 67.86 per cent of responses agreed that the current syllabus required changed which showed that there was an appetite for the production of a new syllabus.

Martin Stand, representative of the Church of England requested that the results be broken down into Secondary and Primary schools as he felt that the contexts were quite different and the responses appeared to be primarily from the primary schools.

Members agreed to look at this in further detail at the next meeting and also to discuss further the high percentage of responses which requested more online resources and lesson plans.

Anne Davison advised Members that she would present a number of options at the next meeting of the ASC for Members consideration.

IT WAS AGREED – To convene a further meeting of the Agreed Syllabus Conference to consider the options for a revised Syllabus.

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AGREED SYLLABUS CONFERENCE

6 SEPTEMBER 2021

REVIEW OF THE LOCALLY AGREED SYLLABUS FOR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION 2015 – OPTIONS

Matter for Consideration

1. To give further consideration to the review of the Locally Agreed Syllabus for Religious Education in Darlington.

Background

2. At the meeting of the Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education held on 8 February 2021 Members recommended that the locally authority commence the review process and convene an Agreed Syllabus Conference to progress.
3. A meeting of the Agreed Syllabus Conference was held on 26 April 2021 Members discussed the consultation process that had been carried out with all schools and Members noted that 67.86 per cent of responses agreed that the current syllabus required change and showed an appetite for the production of a new syllabus.
4. Members agreed at that meeting to look in more detail at the breakdown of responses into secondary and primary schools and also requested that Anne Davison present to Members a number of options for consideration of the Agreed Syllabus Conference.
5. The Local Authority is required to produce a Locally Agreed Syllabus for use in its maintained schools. The options paper attached also explains the different costs for academies, who may adopt the syllabus if they wish to.
6. Members requested that confirmation be sought of the budget that would be allocated to the production of an Agreed Syllabus.
7. Attached to this report is a breakdown of costs for four options for the adoption of a Locally Agreed Syllabus for Members consideration (**Appendix 1**).

Recommendation

8. Members are requested to consider the four options outlined and the associated costs.

James Stroyan
Group Director of People

Background Papers

No Background papers were used in the compilation of this report.

Allison Hill: Extension 5997

Outline of costs of 4 options for the adoption of a Locally Agreed Syllabus for presentation at the Agreed Syllabus conference

For consideration by the Agreed Syllabus Conference - The allocated budget for the production of an Agreed Syllabus is £5000

Option 1 – RE Today Bespoke Syllabus	Maintained Schools	Cost to Primary Academies	Cost to Secondary Academies	Total cost to the Local Authority
An Agreed Syllabus Conference (ASC) set up, overseeing the review <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •A survey of teachers •Initial drafts by the adviser / a consultant •Teacher working groups to feed into the process of reviewing the drafts •Re-writing by the adviser / a consultant •Approval from ASC/SACRE and the Local Authority •Design and production of text and/or online version. 	None	Syllabus, Support materials and (training costs would be covered by the Local Authority – as training would already be set up for Primary maintained.)	Syllabus Support materials and training costs	Approximate: £12,000 - £25,000 This would need to be discussed and would depend on the extent to which LA/SACRE wished to involve teacher working groups.

Option 2 – RE Today Syllabus A	Maintained School costs	Cost to Primary Academies	Cost to Secondary Academies	Cost to LA of covering statutory duties
<p>Provides the minimum for a SACRE / LA to fulfil its legal requirement, and is designed to offer clear, practical support for schools in planning and teaching excellent RE. The agreement is to buy a five-year licence with RE Today. Additional support resources are also available to purchase.</p>	<p>Syllabus - nil Support Materials - nil Training - nil</p>	<p>Syllabus - £90 Support Materials - £248 Training - £100 per school</p>	<p>Syllabus - £96 Support Materials -£248 Training - £1000 (Split between those who attend)</p>	<p>£270 £744 £1000 Total £2014</p>

Option 3 – RE Today Syllabus B	Maintained Schools	Cost to Primary Academies	Cost to Secondary Academies	Cost to LA of covering statutory duties
<p>A newly developed model with a more systematic approach compared to the more thematic approach of syllabus model A. The agreement is to buy a five-year licence with RE Today. Additional support resources are also available to purchase.</p> <p>Additional training is required for ‘Understanding Christianity’ – this is subsidised, but is why there is an extra cost in option 3</p>	<p>Syllabus - nil Support Materials - nil Training - nil</p>	<p>Syllabus - £90 Support Materials £160 Training - £180 Understanding Christianity £100 - syllabus training</p>	<p>Syllabus - £88 Support Materials - £160 Understanding Christianity training £180 Training - £1000 (split between those who attend)</p>	<p>£270 – 5 year licence for syllabus £180 (UC) £480 – support materials £1000 - training Total cost: £1930</p>

Option 4 - Locally Agreed Syllabus 5 year licence from Regional Partner	Maintained Schools	Cost to Primary Academies	Cost to Secondary Academies	Cost to LA of covering statutory duties
<p>Cost of licence and use of syllabus for 5 years is £5500</p> <p>Optional support (as used by Durham and other LAs for implementation for their Agreed Syllabus)- Price upon asking if syllabus adopted.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consultancy support - briefing for HTs and Governors • Virtual launch event (hosted, platform and associated materials- 4 spaced online workshops with RE Adviser) if the syllabus is adopted and unchanged. • Primary RE Coordinators course – Virtual training using an online platform with embedded resources and some live virtual sessions – support for implementation and mid leader development 	<p>Nil</p>	<p>£50 per paper copy</p>	<p>£50 per paper copy</p>	<p>£5500</p>

Overview of available options in the production of a new Locally Agreed Syllabus

Summer 2021

The Agreed budget by the Education department for this piece of work is:

Please note that: SACREs are responsible for ensuring that pupils in the local authority's Maintained Schools receive their statutory entitlement in RE, of the highest possible quality.

Each committee has to agree the syllabus not just a majority. If a syllabus cannot be agreed it is referred to the Secretary of State for Education.

https://www.retoday.org.uk/uploads/RE%20Today%20Website/Consultancy%20documents/Syllabus%20booklet_PAGES-compressed.pdf

The Agreed Syllabus sets out what pupils should be taught in religious education (RE) from ages 5 to 19. All maintained schools have a statutory duty to provide a broad and balanced curriculum which includes RE. Maintained schools without a religious character are required to teach RE to all registered pupils in accordance with the Locally Agreed Syllabus.

Academies and free schools are also required through the terms of their funding agreement to make provision for the teaching of RE. They can choose to use the locally agreed syllabus but are not required to do so.

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